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hearers; a mode which annually brings into view the loss which the landholder sustains by the present establishment, and renews the animosity naturally resulting from his finding the demand encrease in proportion to the encrease of his industry, and the money he has employed in improving his land.

Many of the clergy, from their connections, talents, and education, are, or ought to be respectable, yet this respectability is often lessened, if not destroyed, by the present tithing system, which by placing them at variance with the people, casts a shade over their good qualities; besides this, there is something extremely degrading to men of good sense and character, to be made dependant for support on a tax, levied by themselves off the lower classes of the people, all of whom give it with reluctance, and many of whom are scarcely able, by their utmost exertions, to procure a scanty subsistence for their families, and who never fail to execrate that man who wrests from them a portion of their hard earned substance.

These are certainly great objections to the continuance of the present mode of supporting the clergy, and ought to induce them to unite in a solicitation to the legislature, for some alteration that would be more favourable to themselves, and less obnoxious to the people. What is there in tithe that should incline them to prefer it to all other modes of support? Is not £500 a year, well secured by some other establishment, as good as £500 by tithe? and preferable, by being divested of all the evils and inconveniences of the latter?

They have no occasion to be afraid to trust the care of their concerns into the hands of Government and Parliament, who, if they change the mode, are not likely to lessen the means of support.—Surely every good and moderate clergyman ought to rejoice at the prospect of an alteration that would free him from a share of the odium indiscriminately brought on the whole body, by the exorbitant demands, and rigorous exactions of some of their order; and which, by removing the cause of disagreement between them and the people, would open to him the means of obtaining

all the love and respect due to his usefulness, and the goodness of his character.

Y.

To the Editor of the *Belfast Magazine*.

SIR,

IT does not strike me, that your Correspondent P. has explained a passage in Horace's Ode, Lib. 1st. and I must confess myself equally dissatisfied with the meanings contended for by D'Acier and Sanadon. The term *Matres*, may be considered here as including females in the different capacities of mothers and married women. To say that *Wars are hateful* to women merely as mothers can scarcely be considered as the meaning of the passage; to confine it to the other sense is wholly inadmissible. Sanadon too has unwarily enough thrown out a severe sarcasm on the married state by limiting *his sense* of the term *Matres* to young unmarried women, and seems pretty strongly to imply a hint, that had the marriage ceremony taken place, their anxiety would have been considerably abated.

The quotation from Virgil appears to me, (with the view I have of the passage) not sufficient to illustrate the meaning of Horace. It seems to confine the detestation of war in some measure to those mothers whose children are not of an advanced age. The image is not at all similar, as those mothers would then only be alluded to who were most likely to be directly molested by the ravages of war. The detestation mentioned by Horace, is a dislike permanent and arising from a consideration of the miseries of such a state of things, and widely different from the sudden impulse of natural feeling expressed by the mother in Virgil. I fully agree with P. in the marked difference that exists between Akenside and Virgil in their application of this maternal impulse: however, that it has been a favourite theme of many poets cannot serve the cause one way or the other, for we ought to remember that these poets have been neither mothers nor married women. We may also collect, that Homer (an authority

on which we may safely rely in ascertaining the *scale* of human passions) makes Andromache express more tender regard for her husband than for *Astyanax*: the whole interview indeed might be adduced as an Elucidation of a passage in Horace. I am, Sir, yours, &c. W.

Newry December 4th, 1808.

P. S. I must assure P. that I controvert the meaning of the passage merely with a view to *elucidate*, not to *combat*. I wish and hope he may consider this communication in the same light.

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

AN account of the new discoveries in chemistry, particularly the decomposition of alkalies, and the formation of the two substances, Potassium and Sodaum, by means of the Galvanic Batteries, by Professor Davy, of the Royal Institution, as communicated by him to the Royal Society of London.\*

Mr. Davy first described the methods made use of for the decomposition of fixed alkalies, and he found that the powers of electrical decompositions were proportional to the strength of the opposite electricities in the circuit, and to the conducting power and degree of concentration of the materials employed. In his first attempts at the decomposition of the fixed alkalies, he acted upon aqueous solutions of potash and soda, saturated at the common degrees of temperature, with the Voltaic batteries, but in these cases the water alone was affected, and hydrogen and oxygen disengaged, with the production of much heat and violent effervescence. As water appeared to prevent the decomposition, he used potash in igneous fusion, and some brilliant phenomena were produced, and when the platina spoon on which the potash was placed was made to communicate with the negative side of the battery, and the connection from the positive side was made with platina wire, a vivid and constant light appeared at the opposite point: there was no effect of inflammation round it; but aeriform bubbles, which inflated in

the atmosphere, rose round the potash. He made some attempts to collect the combustible matter, but without success; he only attained his object, by employing electricity as the common agent of fusion and decomposition.

Pot-ash, when perfectly dried by ignition, is a non-conductor; but with the slightest addition of moisture, becomes a good conductor, and in this state it readily fuses and decomposes by strong electrical powers. Having placed a small piece of pure pot-ash, on an insulated disk of platina, connected with the negative side of the battery, and a platina wire communicating with the positive side being brought in contact with the upper surface of the alkali, a vivid action almost instantly took place; the pot-ash fused at both points of electrization; there was a violent effervescence at the upper surface; at the lower, or negative surface, there was no liberation of elastic fluid; but small globules having a high metallic lustre, similar in visible characters to mercury, appeared; some of which burnt with explosion and bright flame, as soon as they were formed, and others remained, and were merely tarnished, and finally covered with a white film, which formed on their surfaces.

"These globules," says the professor, "numerous experiments soon showed to be the substance I was in search of, and a peculiar inflammable principle, the basis of pot-ash." He ascertained that the platina was not at all connected with the result, for the same substance was produced when other metals, or charcoal, were employed for completing the circuit.

Soda, when acted upon in a similar manner, exhibited an analogous result, but it required a battery of strong powers. The substance produced from pot-ash, which is now denominated "Potassium," remained fluid at the temperature of the atmosphere, at the time of its production; that from soda, called "Sodaum," which was fluid, in the degree of heat of the alkali during its formation, became solid on cooling. The globules often burnt at the moment of their formation, and sometimes violently exploded and separated into smaller globules, which flew with great velocity through the air, in a

\* This analysis is taken from the last number of Philips' Monthly Magazine.